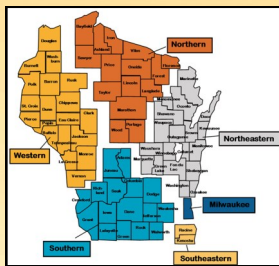


Summer 2014

YoungStar Tips

Whether you are becoming a new YoungStar participant or you are renewing your participation, there are a few key tips you should know in order to ensure efficiency during this very important time for your child care program.

First, make sure that you are **completing the YoungStar contract or renewal form** as soon as possible and sending it into your local YoungStar office to ensure that your Wisconsin Shares payments start immediately or go uninterrupted. Find your local YoungStar office at http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/map/pdf/regional_contact_printable_map.pdf.



Second, make sure that you, as the child care provider, and the parents who are eligible for Wisconsin Shares **complete all the necessary paperwork** to ensure that your Wisconsin Shares payments start immediately or continue uninterrupted.

Lastly, **ask either your county/tribal certifier or YoungStar Technical Consultant any questions that you may have** about policies and procedures for both Wisconsin Shares authorizations and YoungStar participation.

Professional Development and Credit-Based Instruction

As you know, professional development (specifically, credit-based instruction) is important! A 2008 NAEYC Public Policy Report (*Workforce Designs: A Policy Blueprint for State Early Childhood Professional Development Systems*) states:

Many studies point to the knowledge and skills of early childhood program staff as the cornerstone of high quality early childhood education programs. Specialized knowledge and professional development in how young children develop and learn is critical...

(http://www.naeyc.org/files/naeyc/file/policy/ecwsi/Workforce_Designs.pdf, p. 7)

A 2010 NEA Policy Brief (*Raising the Standards for Early Childhood Professionals Will Lead to Better Outcomes*) adds:

The research shows that teachers who have earned a B.A. and who also have received specialized training in early childhood share these characteristics:

- Have classrooms with richer language and literacy environments
- Are more actively engaged, more sensitive, and less punitive
- Give children more feedback and encouragement
- Are more likely to have the skills that promote better outcomes for children

(http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/HE/PB29_RaisingtheStandards.pdf, p. 2)

The evidence base is clear, and that's why YoungStar values credit-based instruction and other forms of professional development. YoungStar recognizes the importance of providers' educational qualifications by awarding points on the basis of higher education credits. At the same time, YoungStar recognizes the barriers to education that many providers face and offers a wide range of supports to help providers overcome these Challenges. (*Continued on page 2*)



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
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Professional Development and Credit-Based Instruction *(continued from page 1)*

If you are interested in accessing professional development support, a great first step would be to contact the Wisconsin Early Childhood Association's (WECA's) free Professional Development Counseling Service, which is a program of YoungStar:



Click: <http://wisconsinearlychildhood.org/programs/youngstar/professional-development-for-wisconsin-s-early-childhood-workforce/>

Call Toll-Free: 1.800.783.9322 (when prompted, select Option 3)

A friendly, helpful WECA Professional Development Counselor will support you in discovering your strengths, connecting to resources, and mapping out your goals. By getting to know you, your goals, and your challenges, your Professional Development Counselor will help you think of ways to extend *your* learning, just as you help the children in your care extend *their* learning.

Sign Up for YoungStar Email Information and Updates

Get the latest YoungStar information and updates by signing up for YoungStar email!

The Department of Children and Families uses the YoungStar email subscription list to communicate to child care providers on topics related to YoungStar and child care quality improvement.

Sign up today at:
<http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/>



The more you know...

Updated YoungStar Documents and Forms

Several documents and forms on the YoungStar website have been recently updated. Stay informed of YoungStar policy updates by reading through these documents.

Accreditation Policy – has been updated to add American Camp Association to the list of accepted accreditations at the 4 Star level, and it was translated into Spanish. <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/policy.htm>

Use of Model Work Standards – sample of first-year strategic planning with use of Model Work Standards. Documents are located on the YoungStar website, on the Tips and Tools webpage, under the Business and Professional Practices section. http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/provider_tips.htm

Maintaining Your Registry Program Profile and Staff Changes During FRO – This document has been updated with new language highlighted in yellow. This document is located on the YoungStar website, on the Policies webpage. <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/policy.htm>

Program Relocation, Type of Care or Ownership Change Form – This form is available from your YoungStar Technical Consultant only. The form is available in English, Spanish and Hmong. Please contact your Technical Consultant with any questions about program relocation, type of care change or ownership change. Read more about the policies for these types of changes on the YoungStar Policy webpage. <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/policy.htm>